In the Claims:

1-47. (Cancelled).

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured to:

construct a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

49. (Currently Amended) A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

a provisioning server;

a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;

an audio package builder/export tool executed by the provisioning server and configured to:

access the centralized database;

construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where an audio segment may-be is located in the audio package; and

export the audio package to the gateway,

wherein the audio segment is located by using said index file is configured to map an by mapping the audio identifier of [[the]] an audio segment in the centralized database to [[an]] the offset and length of [[the]] an audio segment within the constructed audio package in the centralized database.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway over a packet based network.

2

51.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said system is configured to operate on [[a]] the provisioning server.

52.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein each of said audio segments comprises a unique audio identifier.

53.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured to present a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select selects audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

54.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein the audio package further includes an said audio segments file comprises comprising a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

55.   (Cancelled).

56.   (Currently Amended) A system for use in a telecommunications network for providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of the telecommunications network, said system comprising:

        a provisioning server;

        a centralized database containing a plurality of audio segments, said audio segments comprising announcements to be played to the end user of the telecommunications network;

        an audio package builder/export tool executed by the provisioning server and configured to:

                access the centralized database;

                construct an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

                construct an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where an audio segment may be is located in the audio package; and

                export the audio package to the gateway,

wherein the constructed audio package is associated with a version number and said audio package builder/export tool is further configured to track a version number of any audio package created with the audio package builder/export tool.

57.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured to export the audio package to the gateway by preliminarily exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within [[a]] the provisioning server.

58.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool is further configured to export the audio package to the gateway by exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

59.   (Cancelled).

60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising provisioning the centralized database with audio segments.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising constructing a catalog file within the audio package, said catalog file comprising information selected from the group consisting of: announcement title, phrasing, prompt text, voice talent, language, codec, format, group, release notes, checkdata, and date recorded.

62.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

accessing audio segments within a centralized database;

constructing an audio package from the accessed audio segments in the centralized database;

constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be is located; and

exporting the audio package to the gateway; and, wherein the audio segment is located by using said index file for mapping [[an]] the audio identifier of [[the]] an audio segment in the

4

centralized database to [[an]] the offset and length of the located audio segment within the audio package in the centralized database.

63.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package over a packet based network.

64.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62 further comprising associating each of said audio segments with [[a]] an unique audio identifier.

65.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62 further comprising presenting a graphical user interface to a user such that the user may select selects audio segments to be placed in the audio package.

66.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62 wherein constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database comprises constructing an the audio package is constructed from a subset of the audio segments in the centralized database.

67.   (Cancelled).

68.   (Previously Presented) A method of providing audio segments to a gateway to be played to an end user of a telecommunications network, said method comprising:

        accessing audio segments within a centralized database;

        constructing an audio package from audio segments in the centralized database;

        constructing an index file within the audio package that indicates to the gateway where in the audio package an audio segment may be located;

        exporting the audio package to the gateway; and

        tracking a version number of any audio package constructed.

69.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to an intermediary storage location within a provisioning server.

70.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein exporting the audio package to the gateway comprises exporting the audio package to a portable computer readable storage medium.

71.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool exports the audio package to the gateway so that the gateway [[may]] selectively ~~present~~ presents the audio segments within the audio package to end users.

72.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said audio package builder/export tool constructs the index file as a distinct data structure within the audio package.